



Nebraska Partnerships for Positive Youth Development

**Youth Forum
Tuesday March 28, 2006
Norfolk, NE**

Items discussed at the Youth forum were:

- Reach out to others, not just at school activities.
- Get youth more involved (at-risk youth/)
- Coping mechanism or skills.
- Penalties- different for alcohol and drugs.
- Underage smoking-
Solve- better laws
 - 1) Minor in possession of tobacco legislation to give law enforcement an avenue.
- System issue schools only have so much time to cover so many issues. “No child left behind.”
- PEER PRESSURE- As parents we can teach no smoking, no alcohol and abstinence, but if children are around students whose parents aren’t actively involved in teaching non risky behavior it is an uphill battle. Children don’t want preaching from their parents. Need better role models and exposure to consequences.
- Better communication between community services, schools, counselors, police dept, etc...
- Bring in speakers in our different classes about the different problems, i.e. sex, drugs, and alcohol.
- Statistics for youth in bigger schools & cities indicates higher rates of risk behaviors even though youth have more opportunity for entertainment.
- SCHOOLS- Parents need to know what the kids are learning- need something in every grade about making good choices.
- Involve parents by utilizing teachers and youth and start early.
- A single person that would be assigned to Norfolk Public Schools to help with bilingual communication with the schools and other agencies. (Hispanic)

The top 3 issues or concerns identified at the Norfolk Youth Forum were:

1. Better communication between community services, schools, counselors, law enforcement, etc.
2. A single person to be assigned to Norfolk Public Schools to help with bilingual communication with the schools and other agencies. (Hispanic)
3. Penalties- Different for alcohol and drugs

Action steps identified for *Nebraska Partnerships for Positive Youth Development*.:

- Provide updates and status of the health and well-being of Nebraska youth.
- Notify partners of training and technical assistance available for youth-serving adults and organizations.
- Provide a list of youth programs, services and events available in the state.
- Develop and enhance collaboration among youth-serving agencies and organizations both regionally and statewide.
- Facilitate open communication among Partnership members.